

Appl. No. 09/899,242
Amdt. Dated November 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 12, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P14188-US2
EUS/JP/04-2157

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 9-14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 30, 47, 52-54, 62, 64 and 65 have been amended and claims 8, 15, 27-29, 32, 39-46, 50-51, 63, 67 and 74-81 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-26, 30-31, 33-38, 47-49, 52-62, 64-66 and 68-73 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 15, 25, 32, 61, 63 and 67 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 15 and intervening claim 8; amended independent claim 47 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 63 and intervening claims 50 and 51; and amended Independent claim 65 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 67. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 47 and 65 are now allowable. Whereas claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-26, 30-31 and 33-38 are dependent from claim 1, and include the limitations thereof, those claims are now allowable. Furthermore, whereas claims 48-49, 52-62 and 64 are dependent from claim 47, and include the limitations thereof, those claims are also allowable. And, finally, whereas claims 66 and 68-73 are dependent from claim 65, and include the limitations thereof, those claims are also now allowable.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-15, 24-26 and 30-81 as claiming the same invention as claims 1-70 of copending Application No. 09/774,563. Upon the

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Examiner's acceptance of the claims presented herein, Applicant will file an Express Abandonment of, or an amendment canceling the claims in, the copending application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-26, 30-31, 33-38, 47-49, 52-62, 64-66 and 68-73.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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